

# A Division Community and Neighbourhood Watch News



ISSUE 65 January 2010

## 'Work With Us'

### Divisional Commanders Message



A New Year brings with it a new Commander, and I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. After 18 months in charge of the Safer Communities Department at Headquarters, I am taking over as the Divisional Commander of Edinburgh. During my 23 years with Lothian and Borders Police, I have enjoyed a range of different posts, both in uniform and CID duties, and have previously worked at Howdenhall, St Leonard's, Gayfield, and Leith police stations in the city, as well as postings in Mid, East and West Lothian. I have also been seconded to the Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency, based in Strathclyde, for over three years.

I am really looking forward to getting out and about in the city to see for myself the extent of community engagement that is going on every day at a local level. Community Beat Officers are crucial to achieving our aim of understanding and addressing local issues, and I am keen to push ahead with the emphasis on prevention and problem solving approaches.

As in previous years, Edinburgh has hosted a wide range of events over the festive period, and police officers and staff have worked hard to keep crime levels low and anti-social behaviour to a minimum. The extensive planning for the policing of the Hogmanay celebrations paid off again this year, with the low level of arrests reflecting the good natured atmosphere and friendly relationship between the public and the police.

I look forward to contributing to the policing of this diverse and dynamic city, and maintaining its high attraction as a safe place to live, work and visit.

**Chief Supt Gill Imery, 'A' Division Commander**

CITY  
WIDE

### Theft Of Your Christmas Presents

Favourite items for thieves are gadgets like mobile phones, laptops, MP3 players and satellite navigation systems.

I'm sure many of you were lucky enough to get one of these items for Christmas.

They are most vulnerable when on view in your car so don't leave luggage or valuables on display. Even an old coat or cigarette packet can be a temptation for someone to smash and grab. Car thieves steal first and think about value later. Take valuables with you or lock them in the boot out of sight. Don't be tempted to hide things under the seats or leave them in the glove box.

Thieves are innovative and latest scams include:

- Using a mobile phone with Bluetooth capability to scan your vehicle or home for any items you may have with Bluetooth enabled, then breaking in and helping themselves. So even though you have gone to the trouble to lock your valuables in the boot, they can be detected. **DISABLE YOUR BLUETOOTH BEFORE YOU LEAVE.**
- Satellite Navigation systems are highly sought after and criminals look for the sucker mark that is left on the inside of the windscreen when it is removed, then break in on the off chance that you've hidden the unit in the car. **CLEAN THE TELL TALE MARK AND TAKE YOUR SAT NAV WITH YOU.**

And finally...

Picture if you will, a snowy or frosty winter morning in January. You leave the house to find your car windows frozen so you open up, turn on the engine and fire up the heater. This may take a while so you retire to the house to finish your cup of coffee. When you return to the car, it's not there!

HOT  
TOPICS

# Local News

Welcome to the January 2010 Police Newsletter for the Marchmont, Meadows and Tollcross area – the SM46 Beat. It provides you with a summary of incidents that occurred in your area during December 2009. It also provides you with some helpful and relevant crime prevention information.

Happy New Year to you all!

PC4601A Yocksan Bell

## CRIME SUMMARY

In December 65 crimes were reported in your ward. This is a **36% reduction** on the November figure and is well below the monthly average for 2009.

A general breakdown of some of these crimes is listed in this newsletter.

## HOUSEBREAKING

During December 4 premises were broken into in our area. This figure is an reduction on the previous months total.

- Glen Street x2 (one attempt and one theft)
- Strathearn Road (nothing stolen)
- Lauriston Place (nothing stolen) Home Street (Domestic)
- **Always** secure your house door using ALL available locks. **NEVER** just on the Yale.
- **Report** all suspicious activity to Police
- **Securely** lock all personal possessions including ladders and other items which may serve as aides to the housebreaker.
- Ensure common stair doors are in working order and secured at **ALL** times.
- **Confirm** ID before allowing entry.

## INCIDENT SUMMARY

During December 2009 there were 180 incidents reported to Police in your area. This is a 18% reduction on the previous month.

Of these **only 10** were graded as 1, ie emergencies that required an immediate response. 57 were graded as 2 ie. non-emergencies to be responded to within one hour. The remainder were more routine being dealt with by a shift officer or by a Community Beat officer or may not have needed a Police response. A significant proportion of these jobs (24 or 13%) were referred to different agencies for action.

## Theft of Pedle Cycles



During December there were only 3 reported thefts of bicycles. This is a vast reduction on the November figure, which was 16!

Once again:

- Secure bikes properly using accredited “Sold Secure” locks.
- Use a combination of cable lock and D-lock whenever possible
- Always note the bike serial number and photograph your bike.
- **PROTECT YOUR INVESTMENT**

 **CRIMESTOPPERS**  
**0800 555 111**  
Call anonymously with information about crime

## Telephone Scams



Bogus calls designed to convince you to hand over your credit card or bank details are a real problem. Be cautious.

If you are contacted by telephone and told that you have won a prize, think for a minute: did you enter any competitions? Odds are you didn't.

The vast majority of the time, these calls are scams, originating from abroad and designed to convince you to give over personal details such as your bank account number or credit card information.

If this happens to you, **just hang up the phone**. If you ever do win, you will never be asked for personal details, nor would you ever have to pay anything in order to collect your winnings - that's a sure sign that something is wrong.

Many people have been taken in by these scams, and some have lost their entire life savings.

**Don't** be one of them.

**Never** give out personal details over the phone.

**Always** ask for more information.

Be sure you **know** who you're talking to.

Keep your bank account details **safe**.

## Keep Safe – Personal Safety Tips

If you often walk home in the dark, get a personal attack alarm from a DIY store. Carry it in your hand so you can use it immediately to scare off an attacker. Make sure it is designed to continue sounding if it's dropped or falls to the ground.

Carry your bag close to you with the clasp facing inwards. Carry your house keys in your pocket. If someone grabs your bag, let it go. If you hang on, you could get hurt. Remember your safety is more important than your property.

If you think someone is following you, check by crossing the street to see if he follows. If you are still worried, get to the nearest place where there are other people and call the police.

If you regularly go jogging or cycling, try to vary your route and time. Stick to well-lit roads with pavements. On commons and parklands, keep to main paths and open spaces where you can see and be seen by other people – avoid wooded areas. If you wear a personal stereo, remember you can't hear traffic, or somebody approaching behind you.

Don't take short-cuts through dark alleys, parks or across waste ground. Walk facing the traffic so a car cannot pull up behind you unnoticed.

If a car stops and you are threatened, scream and shout, and set off your personal attack alarm if you have one. Get away as quickly as you can. This will gain you vital seconds and make it more difficult for the car driver to follow. If you can, make a mental note of the number and description of the car. Write down details as soon as possible afterwards.

Don't hitch-hike or take lifts from strangers.

Cover up expensive looking jewellery.

Self-defence and safety awareness classes may help you feel more secure. Ask your local police or your work if they have classes.

## Useful Numbers

PC 4601A Yocksan Bell – Local CBO  
E-mail: [yocksan.bell@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:yocksan.bell@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

**ST LEONARDS STATION INSPECTOR:**  
Inspector Ian Moffat  
E-Mail: [ian.moffat@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ian.moffat@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

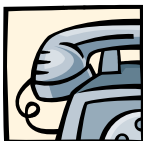
**FORCE COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE:**  
(For reporting non-emergency crimes or other disorder)  
0131-311-3131

**ST LEONARDS POLICE STATION**  
0131-662 5000

**COMMUNITY SAFETY DEPARTMENT**  
0131-221-2050 / 2100

**Crimestoppers (confidential)**  
0800 555 111.

**ST LEONARDS POLICE STATION**  
0131 662 5000



How to contact police to report incidents:

URGENT: 999

Non-Urgent calls/general enquires:  
0131 311 3131 or [www.lbp.police.uk](http://www.lbp.police.uk) or  
email: [enquires@lbp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:enquires@lbp.pnn.police.uk)

## And Finally....

Can I first of all take this opportunity to wish all readers a happy, safe and healthy New Year. I hope that you had an enjoyable festive period and are now back into something of a routine. The Festive Period was, as always a challenging one for officers working within the City due to the significant number of revellers coupled with some very difficult weather conditions. The significant increase in the number of people visiting the area does undoubtedly have an impact on the demand for not only Policing services but also other Emergency services.

During the Festive period, extra officers were utilised in our area to specifically target anti-social and alcohol-related behaviour and thefts during the main shopping times. As a result of the initiative, over 1000 hours extra patrol time was achieved, 22 people were arrested and over 200 licensed premises were visited.

Looking ahead, whilst similar initiatives will operate throughout the year to deal with predicted events, we will still provide a locally focussed service to deal with the priorities that the community has raised. If you want to raise any matters of concern, please contact your local community officer or raise the issue through your local community council.

Ian Moffat, Inspector

